



*Keeping You Connected...Expanding Your Potential...
In Senior Care and Services*

TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
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DATE: February 22, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – *House Bill 874 – State Board of Long-Term Care Administrators – Requirements for Assisted Living Managers*

On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the largest and most diverse senior care provider association in Maryland representing nursing facilities, assisted living providers, continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs), medical adult day care centers, senior housing communities, and other home and community-based services, we **strongly support** House Bill 874. In addition to making technical and clarifying changes to the statute, this bill provides additional time for the State Board of Long-Term Care Administrators (“Board”) to license assisted living managers and provides the same amount of additional time for individuals employed in small homes (four beds and under) to take the 80-hour manager training course.

In 2022, the General Assembly passed legislation to require both of the above-referenced requirements. The legislation also required the appointment of five individuals to the Board who meet the requirements to be an assisted living manager. In addition, the legislation required, by October 1, 2023, the board to report on (1) the status of the appointment of the assisted living managers to the board; (2) the number of personnel employed by the board to implement the assisted living manager licensure requirements; (3) the ability of the board’s software platform to accept applications for licensure as assisted living managers and issue the licenses; (4) the timeframe for informing and steps that will be taken to inform assisted living programs and assisted living managers of the licensure requirement; and (5) any other policies that the board anticipates adopting to implement the bill.

There are approximately 1,700 assisted living programs operating in the State. It is anticipated that, with this requirement, approximately 3,400 individuals will seek licensure through the Board. At this time, the Board does not have the tools and resources it needs for an effective and efficient implementation of this requirement. The Administration has not completed the process for appointing the five assisted living managers to the Board, the Board has not been granted additional staff for implementation, and the Board does not have an electronic system for accepting applications. Equally important is the need to grant additional time to educate and ensure that those in small programs are aware of and have the opportunity to take the 80-hour manager training course, which includes ensuring that there is adequate capacity within the vendors that teach the course to accommodate this new requirement. Therefore, we request a favorable vote.